

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 EB-11 OMB-01 AGR-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /164 W
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R 251710Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0979

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS ROME 10208

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IT

SUBJECT: DAIRY SITUATION, ITALY

SECSTATE PASS AGRICULTURE

FROM AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

1. SUMMARY. AGMINFERRARI AGGRADI ADDRESSING DAIRY FARMERS FROM
NORTHRN ITALY LAST SUNDAY IN STYLISH PALAZZO CITTENOVA DURING
CLOSING DAY OF CREMONA DAIRY FAIR MET WITH UNFRIENDLY AUDIENCE
WHICH CAUSED MINISTER TO RETURN TO ROME. END SUMMARY.

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2. AGRICULTURAL MINISTER FERRARI AGGRADI IN CREMONA, CENTER OF

ITALY'S DAIRY BELT, FACED UNHAPPY FARMERS WHO ARE CONFRONTED WITH COST/PRICE SQUEEZE BECAUSE OF FROZEN PRICES FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS ON ONE HAND, AND HIGH FREE PRICES FOR FEEDSTUFF AND FERTILIZER ON OTHER, WHICH ALREADY HAS CAUSED FARMERS TO SLAUGHTER SOME COWS.

AUDIENCE HAD EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLEAR DECISIONS IN FAVOR OF DAIRY INDUSTRY AND WHEN MINISTER FAILED TO DO SO AND LINGERED ON GENERALITIES, FARMERS MADE THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT KNOWN, VOCALLY.

3. MINISTER, FACED WITH SUCH REACTION, ATTEMPTED TO BLAME FLOATING OF THE ITALIAN LIRE AS WELL AS QUOTE AMERICAN HUGE SPECULATIVE GRAINSALES IN 1972 UNQUOTE FOR PRESENT PREDICAMENT. SO DOING HE DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM GOI'S OFFICIAL POINT OF VIEW.

4. MINISTER BEGGED FARMERS NOT TO SLAUGHTER COWS BUT EXERCISE CONFIDENCE AND PATIENCE IN OUTCOME OF LONG-TERM FARM POLICY OF GOI.

IT WAS THIS APPEAL WHICH CAUSED MAIN NEGATIVE REACTION FROM FARMERS WHO SEEMED TIRED OF ENDLESS PROMISES. MINISTER HAD MET SIMILAR REACTION FROM DAIRY FARMERS AT MEETING IN CARMAGNOLA (TORIN) ON 9 SEPTEMBER.

5. SOMEWHAT EMOTIONAL FERRARI AGGRADI CLAIMED THAT QUOTE TODAY I FEEL MYSELF HERE MORE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE THAN EVEN BEFORE UNQUOTE (COMMENT: HE HAS HELD THAT CABINET POST TWICE BEFORE), WHICH GENERATED SHOUTS FROM AUDIENCE QUOTE ONE MUST BE COURAGEOUS TO FEEL THAT WAY UNQUOTE.

6. THERE ARE THOSE WHO SPECULATE THAT MINISTER ACTUALLY HAD COME TO CREMONA TO RECEIVE SUCH STRONG REACTION FROM FARMERS, THUS STRENGTHENING HIS POSITION IN CABINET AND ALSO ITALY'S BARGAINING POSITION WITHIN EC.VOLPE

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